

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02065 041529Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COA-02 DLOS-06 IO-14 AID-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/157 W

----- 084058

R 041237Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2729

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 2065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, BL, CI, PE

SUBJ: PRESIDENT CONVOKES "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" TO DISCUSS

ACCESS TO THE SEA ISSUE

REF: LA PAZ 2024

1. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, PRESIDENT BANZER ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION MARCH 31 TO MEET WITH GROUP OF DISTINGUISHED BOLIVIANS (EX-PRESIDENTS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, POLITICAL PARTY AND LABOR LEADERS, ETC.) TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR REGAINING THE COUNTRY'S ACCESS TO THE SEA. IN SUBSEQUENT DAYS, RESPONSE TO BANZER'S PROPOSAL IN PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY FAVORABLE: IN THE VIEW OF PRESTIGIOUS LA PAZ DAILY EL DIARIO, "FEW POLITICAL INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN SO WELL RECEIVED IN RECENT TIMES." EVEN OPPOSITION POLITICIANS SUCH AS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHIEF BENJAMIN MIGUEL AND PRA LEADER WALTER GUEVARA WEL-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 02065 041529Z

COMED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO ATTEND MEETING, ALTHOUGH

BOTH COMPLAINED THAT EXILED OPPOSITIONISTS SUCH AS EX-PRESIDENTS PAZ ESTENSSORO, SILES ZUAZO, OVANDO AND TORRES SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO ATTEND

2. SESSIONS OF THIS MEETING, CALLED A "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" BY PRESIDENT BANZER, WILL COMMENCE AT 10 A.M. ON APRIL 5 IN COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL IN COCHABAMBA. TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT BANZER, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES, FIVE FORMER PRESIDENT OF BOLIVIA (DAVID TORO, MAMERTO URRIOLAGOITIA, ENRIQUE HERTZOG, HUGO BALLIVIAN AND LUIS ADOLFO SILES SALINAS) AND MANY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTERS (INCLUDING GUEVARA, ALBERTO CRESPO GUTIERREZ AND MARIO GUTIERREZ) WILL ATTEND MEETING, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ON APRIL 6. BANZER WILL ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF SESSIONS TO NATION IN A SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED FOLLOWING CLOSING OF CONFERENCE

3. COMMENT: CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN COCHABAMBA REEMPHASIZES DECISION BY BANZER GOVERNMENT, REPORTED IN REFTTEL, TO GIVE RE-NEWED POLICY EMPHASIS TO CENTURY-OLD THEME OF "RETURN TO THE SEA." MEETING WILL ALSO SERVE GOVERNMENT'S GOAL OF UNITING DIVERSE STRANDS OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL OPINION BEHIND THIS FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE, WHILE DISTRACTING PUBLIC ATTENTION FROM SUCH PRESSING INTERNAL PROBLEMS AS FOOD SHORTAGES AND INFLATION. WE EXPECT THAT GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO GENERATE HIGH LEVEL OF OFFICIAL ACTIVITY AND PUBLIC DEBATE OVER ACCESS TO THE SEA QUESTION UNTIL EITHER POPULAR INTEREST WANES OR NEW ISSUES ARISE TO TAKE PRIORITY OVER THIS FAMILIAR THEME IN BOLIVIAN FOREIGN POLICY.  
STEDMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MEETINGS, WATERWAY ACCESS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974LAPAZ02065  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740076-0579  
**From:** LA PAZ  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740468/aaaacjxu.tel  
**Line Count:** 91  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** LA PAZ 2024  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT CONVOKES "NATIONAL ASSEMBLY" TO DISCUSS ACCESS TO THE SEA ISSUE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, BL, CI, PE, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005